

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

— Confucius, Lao-Tzu

URBIS

All of us carry an imagined city in our heads, filled with news, music, art, and patterns of living. What makes Urbis, a four-story museum in Manchester, England, such a fascinating place is how it threads the main themes of urban living — arrive, change, order, and explore — with an engaging mix of audio, visual, and sensory environments. Urbis, which opened in 2002, is the only museum in the world dedicated to the exploration of urban and global culture. In part, Urbis shows how cities can be liberating rather than daunting. "We're interested in showing how one develops personal and collective resources for dealing with the challenges and opportunities of the modern city," says Urbis' creative director Scott Burnham. Thus, its exhibits reveal a mix of exploitation and opportunity, energy and chaos, wealth and poverty, loss and re-invention — just like any good city.

At Urbis, you can explore taxicab culture in cities from New York to Bangkok, see the evolution of people and places such as Bombay and St. Petersburg, and meet artists, immigrants, businessmen, runaways, and shoppers from Los Angeles, São Paulo, Paris, Tokyo, and Singapore. You'll also find out how citizens arm themselves and how

cities confront security issues and criminals. Whether you're virtually flying above the streets of São Paulo using one of the elite's helicopters or being watched by urban authorities, Urbis is a creative way to experience many global cities as a true inhabitant. You'll learn why cities are such dynamic places, ever-evolving in their complexity, while seeing one of the most modern pieces of architecture in Manchester. Be sure to check out the first floor where "The Peter Saville Show", a retrospective of the influential graphic designer's life, is slated for the first part of 2004. KRYSTINA SIBLEY

urbis.org.uk

